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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM:
EGYPT IRAQ: CALIPARI INVESTIGATION EU-U.S. RELATIONS - EU
CONSTITUTION
PARIS - MONDAY, MAY 02, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

- [1. INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM: EGYPT](#)
- [2. IRAQ: CALIPARI INVESTIGATION](#)
- [3. EU-U.S. RELATIONS - EU CONSTITUTION](#)

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

THE REFERENDUM ON THE EU CONSTITUTION AND PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S TEN YEARS IN OFFICE ARE TWO OF TODAY'S MAJOR FRONT-PAGE STORIES. A NEW POLL ON VOTER INTENTION ON THE EU CONSTITUTION CONDUCTED ON BEHALF OF LE MONDE, RTL RADIO AND LCI TELEVISION REPORTS THAT THE "YES" LEAD BY 52 PERCENT. BUT A SIMILAR POLL CONDUCTED FOR LE JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE INDICATES THE "NO" WINNING BY THE SAME 52 PERCENT. ANOTHER POLL IN LE FIGARO ON CHIRAC'S POPULARITY INDICATES THAT 38 PERCENT OF THE FRENCH SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT, AND 57 DO NOT. BUT PREVIOUS POLLS SHOW THE CHANGING NATURE OF PUBLIC OPINION FOR FRENCH PRESIDENTS, A POINT RAISED IN THE LE FIGARO EDITORIAL BY YVES THREARD.

THE EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION IS ALSO DEBATED IN AN OP-ED IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION WITH REGARD TO THE U.S., AND EUROPE'S POSITION AS EITHER A "VASSAL OR AN EQUAL" OF THE U.S. (SEE PART C)

ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT THE NEW FACE OF TERRORISM IN EGYPT IS ANALYZED, WHILE SEVERAL REPORTS ARE DEVOTED TO THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ROME AND WASHINGTON OVER THE PENTAGON'S CONCLUSIONS REGARDING THE CALIPARI ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING IN IRAQ. (SEE PART C)

CATHOLIC LA CROIX CARRIES A PORTRAIT OF ANN VENEMAN, FORMER U.S. AGRICULTURE SECRETARY AND NEW HEAD OF UNICEF: "HER NOMINATION CANNOT BE EXPLAINED BY HER EXPERIENCE THE PLIGHT OF CHILDREN IN THE WORLD, BUT RATHER BY HER CLOSENESS TO THE WHITE HOUSE, AN ASSET IN THE ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE UN, WHICH HAVE SUFFERED SINCE THE WAR IN IRAQ."

THE CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK ON THE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION TREATY IS REPORTED IN LE FIGARO. A SEPARATE REPORT INDICATES HOW IRAN, "IN SPITE OF THE RISKS INVOLVED, CONTINUES TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTORS." RIGHT-OF-CENTER WEEKLY L'EXPRESS IN ITS REPORT ON THE CONFERENCE COMMENTS: "IF THE NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY WITH IRAN FAIL, THE AMERICANS ARE READY TO HAND OVER THE ISSUE TO THE UNSC, AND DO NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF REVERTING TO FORCE."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM: EGYPT

"INNOVATIONS"

GERARD DUPUY IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (05/02): "IF MUBARAK HAS ACCEPTED THE IDEA OF CHANGE FOR EGYPT, IT IS BECAUSE CHANGE HAS COME TO EGYPT. MUBARAK'S SUCCESSION REVEALS INTERNAL GENERATIONAL AND POLITICAL CONFRONTATIONS. THE NEW GENERATIONS MARCHING IN THE STREETS ARE BETTING ON A CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY. UNFORTUNATELY ISLAMIC TERRORISTS ARE ALSO INNOVATING, USING A SORT OF DECENTRALIZED ORGANIZATION FOR DEADLY ATTACKS. IN A COUNTRY KNOWN FOR ITS POLITICAL IMMOBILITY, THE TEMPTATION TO PIT ONE GROUP AGAINST THE OTHER IS GREAT. EGYPT, FOR THE MOST PART, IS A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP. MUBARAK IS FACING TWO CHOICES TYPICAL OF AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES: OPENING THE DOOR TO CHANGE, WITH THE RISKS INVOLVED, OR USING MORE AUTHORITY, AND RISKING AN EXPLOSION."

"A NEW GENERATION OF TERRORISTS"

PIERRE GARRETT IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (05/02): "SPECIALISTS IN EGYPT'S ARMED ISLAMISM ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW GENERATION OF TERRORISTS, YOUNGER, MORE DESPERATE AND LESS EASY TO CONTROL. THIS NEW FORM OF TERRORISM IS MORE INFORMAL, FEEDS ON DOMESTIC FRUSTRATIONS AND REGIONAL TENSION, SUCH AS THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT AND THE WAR

IN IRAQ."

"IN CAIRO, TERRORISM, FAMILY-STYLE"

RIGHT-OF-CENTER FRANCE SOIR (05/02): "THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WOMEN TERRORISTS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN ATTACKS IN EGYPT. THE POSSIBILITY SEEMED SO UNLIKELY THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES FIRST BELIEVED THE ATTACKERS WERE MEN DRESSED AS WOMEN. THIS TURN OF EVENTS IS A WORRISOME SIGN OF THE CHANGES OPERATING IN EGYPT'S TERRORISM. IT HAS EXPERTS CONCERNED ABOUT A NEW WAVE OF ATTACKS SIMILAR TO THE ONES IN THE 90S. EGYPT IS FACING A NEW GENERATION OF FUNDAMENTALISTS WHO ARE PARTICULARLY OPPOSED TO THE WEST. THEY FEED ON THE COUNTRY'S DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION AND ITS ABSENCE OF DEMOCRACY. THEY ARE ALSO ANNOYED WITH MUBARAK'S RELATIONSHIP WITH WASHINGTON."

IRAQ: NEW GOVERNMENT AND CALIPARI INVESTIGATION

"A DIPLOMATIC INCIDENT BETWEEN ROME AND WASHINGTON"

RICHARD HEUZE IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (05/02): "THE OFFICIAL U.S. REPORT ON THE SHOOTING DEATH OF NICOLA CALIPARI APPEARED SO FAR FROM THE TRUTH THAT SYLVIO BERLUSCONI'S GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO CO-SIGN IT. ITALY'S OWN INVESTIGATION AND CONCLUSIONS DIFFER COMPLETELY FROM WASHINGTON'S. FOR THE AMERICANS, THE FAULT LIES WITH THE ITALIANS, WHO FAILED TO INFORM THE U.S. THAT ITALIAN INTELLIGENCE WAS IN IRAQ. IF ONE IS TO BELIEVE THE OFFICIAL ITALIAN VERSION, THIS IS A BLATANT LIE. THIS AFFAIR IS PUTTING BERLUSCONI IN AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION. HE DOES NOT WANT TO PUT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. IN JEOPARDY. BUT SOMEHOW HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ELUDE THE QUESTION OF ITALY'S MILITARY PRESENCE IN IRAQ."

"IT IS ROME'S FAULT"

ERIC JOZSEF IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (05/02): "IT IS ITALY'S FAULT. THE U.S. IMPLICITLY SUGGESTED THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FIRING SHOTS THAT KILLED CALIPARI LIES WITH THE ITALIANS FOR NOT INFORMING THEIR ALLIES OF THEIR OPERATION. THE MOST EMBARRASSING DIVERGENCE BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND ROME HAS TO DO WITH COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO ALLIES. DID THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES CHOOSE NOT TO INFORM THE AMERICANS? IT IS A FACT THAT WASHINGTON HAS NEVER ACCEPTED TO NEGOTIATE WITH HOSTAGE TAKERS."

EU-U.S. RELATIONS - EU CONSTITUTION

"A VASSAL EUROPE OR AN EQUAL EUROPE?"

JUSTIN VAISSE IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (05/02): "WHEN IT COMES TO EUROPE AND THE EU CONSTITUTION, WE MUST KEEP IN MIND THE POSITION OF EUROPE'S FOREIGN PARTNERS, AND IN PARTICULAR THAT OF THE U.S. LET US NOT MAKE ANY MISTAKE HERE: A REJECTION OF THE TREATY WOULD BE RECEIVED WITH A FEELING OF VICTORY BY WASHINGTON'S NEO-CONSERVATIVES, ESPECIALLY IF IT RESULTED FROM FRANCE'S VOTE. FROM WOLFOWITZ TO BOLTON AND RUMSFELD, THE REJECTION OF THE TREATY WOULD COMFORT THE UNILATERALIST AND WEAKEN THE MULTILATERALISTS IN THE INTERNAL U.S. DEBATE ABOUT WHO DECIDES AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY. THE DEBATE ON THE EU CONSTITUTION IS NOT ONLY TAKING PLACE IN EUROPE. IN WASHINGTON, AS IN EUROPE, TWO VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE ARE IN OPPOSITION. THE FIRST, WHICH DOMINATES IN WASHINGTON, BUT ALSO IN GREAT BRITAIN AND EASTERN EUROPE, CALLS FOR A 'NO' VOTE AND REPRESENTS A VISION OF THE WORLD DOMINATED BY THE U.S., 'THE BENEVOLENT EMPIRE' WHICH MUST BE HELPED BY ITS ALLIES WITHOUT ASKING QUESTIONS. THE SECOND VISION, WHICH IS THAT OF THE DEMOCRATS AND A FEW REALISTS AMONG THE REPUBLICANS, CONSIDER THAT UNILATERALISM IS DANGEROUS AND THAT THE U.S. MUST LISTEN AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHAT ITS ALLIES HAVE TO SAY. THIS VISION, WHICH IS CLOSE TO THAT OF MOST EUROPEANS, REQUIRES A EUROPEAN UNION THAT CAN BE HEARD ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE TO WEIGH IN ON U.S. DOMESTIC POLICY AND TO DIRECT AMERICA TOWARDS COOPERATION RATHER THAN HEGEMONY. IN OTHER WORDS, THE INTERNAL BALANCE OF POWER IN WASHINGTON REFLECTS THE STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM: A DIVIDED AND WEAKENED EUROPE DEPRIVES THE MULTILATERALISTS OF SUPPORT AND PARTNERS. REJECTING THE EU CONSTITUTION WOULD STRENGTHEN THE UNILATERALISTS. WITH THE U.S. CONTINUING TO PROMOTE EUROPE'S CONSTRUCTION ONLY WHERE IT BENEFITS THEM: FREE TRADE, TURKEY'S EU MEMBERSHIP, BUT DIVIDING EUROPE TO BETTER IMPOSE ITSELF WHERE ITS INTERESTS ARE. A COHERENT EUROPE CAN HELP TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD IN AN EQUAL PARTNERSHIP WITH THE U.S. A DIVIDED AND LESSER EUROPE CAN ONLY LEAD TO THE PASSIVE VINDICTIVENESS OF THE IMPOTENT: ANTI-AMERICANISM." WOLFF